(c) whether any decision in this regard has been considered by the Group; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) The Group of Ministers (GOM), headed by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, is examining the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) on the formulation of a new Pricing Policy for urea units. One of the recommendations of ERC is to adopt a dual pricing system by issuing fertilizer coupons to poor farmers. This recommendation of ERC along with similar recommendations received from other quarters is under consideration of the GOM.

Plastic Factories in Sarai Basti, Delhi

2532. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of factories in the Sarai Basti, Old Rohtak Road, Delhi-35 area;

(b) the number of plastic factories out of those;

(c) whether it is a non-conforming Industrial Area;

(d) whether it is a fact that the polluting plastic factories have been banned;

(e) whether a representation has been made by the welfare Association, Sarai Basti, Delhi-35, recently; and

(f) if so, what action has been taken in the matter; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Information is being collected.

(d) Industrial units manufacturing plastic products/PVC products fall under the ambit of the Supreme Court's Orders in CWP No. 4677/85 regarding shifting of industries from residential areas/zones.

(e) A representation has been received by Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) from Welfare Association, Sarai Basti, Old Rohtak Road, Delhi-35 against a plastic industry.

(f) The DPPC is taking necessary action against the Unit as per provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act.

Eco-Friendly Plastic Bag

2533. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any environmentally degradable (ED) plastic, which does not leave harmful toxic residue or matter, choke the drains or kill the animals, as reported in the "Hindustan Times" dated 13th June 2002;

(b) if so, by when this enviroment friendly plastic bag would be brought in the market for public use; and

(c) what would be cost-wise analysis of the conventional plastic bag and the ED plastic bag once marketed?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Environmentally Degradable plastics can be decomposed to form water and carbon dioxide by the action of microorganisms commonly existing in the natural environment.

(b) and (c) As per the Ministry of Science and Technology sponsored project report on Technology status and prospects of bio-degradable plastics in India, there are two known indigenous biodegradable plastic manufacturing units in the country.

Impact of Utkal Alumina Project on wildlife

2534. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area proposed for setting up of Utkal Alumina Project in Kasipur Block of Rajagoda District in Orissa has the wildlife of the nature of bears and other mammals;